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TAB B

"3. The relationship of sorties flown to battalions engaged." (S)

STAG Comment: (TS) The data available allowed no accurate evaluation of the rates of sorties flown to battalions engaged because neither the DOD Statistical Summary nor the MILREPS nor SITREPS listed sorties flown in SVN mission type, e.g., CAS, interdiction, and armed recce. However, there are some gross statistics that can be presented.

a. There are currently 171 regular ARVN/US/third country infantry battalions located in SVN; in addition, there are approximately 721 regional force companies and 204 CIDG companies, or a total of 925 companies. Equating 4 companies per battalion these equal 231 battalion equivalents. There are thus 402 Regular and Irregular battalions located in SVN.

b. The DOD Statistical Summary reports 56,539 attack sorties flown from 1 July 1965 to 27 November 1965, or an average of 379 sorties per day in CAS, interdiction, or armed recce.

c. The DOD Statistical Summary reports 1,163 battalion-size or larger engagements during this same period (it cannot be determined how many company or smaller-size engagements occurred). This averages out to 8 battalion-size engagements per day. If we assume the same rate of engagements for the 231 battalion equivalents of Irregular forces then we can assume 11 engagements for the 231 battalion equivalents. This makes a total of 19 battalion-size engagements per day.

d. By dividing the average number of attack sorties flown per day (379) by the total average number of battalion-size engagements per day (19), we find that there were 20 sorties flown of all types for each battalion engaged. If we assume only 50 percent of the sorties flown in CAS, it would still be 10 sorties flown for each battalion engaged.

e. It must be recognized that the data provided above is an extrapolation of the statistics available. However, a review of SITREPS and MILREPS for these periods reveals no instance of complaints of lack of CAS.

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